

NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER
2026



THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST LAVINGTON
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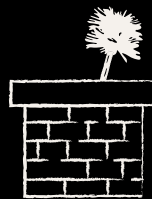
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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to News and Views! I hope your summer has been relaxing and enjoyable, despite the various heatwaves. This time last year my editorial piece talked about the hopeful end of a long hot summer, my parched garden and hoping for downpours. Not much has changed! At least this year we were able to go ahead with the West Lavington Fete Dog Show and the Fete itself proved to be a very popular and successful event, as you can read on Page 16.

This edition is full of planned events for September to keep us all entertained this autumn whilst supporting various local charities. And if you are looking for something to fill the autumn and winter evenings, why not consider joining the newly formed amateur dramatic group, The Plain Players, for their inaugural production in November, either on stage or behind the scenes. It promises to be a lot of fun!

Sue Bonney - Editor editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Deadline Dates

Editorial copy and photographs should be sent to editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Articles and photographs for the **October issue** should reach Sue Bonney no later than **Sunday September 20th**. *Anything arriving after that date may not be included in the magazine.*

Advertising in News and Views

For more information about placing an advertisement in News and Views, please email newsandviewsadverts@gmail.com

This Month's Cover: Scenes from this year's very successful West Lavington Fete. Photos by Kevan Roasendale and Sue Bonney.

We are always on the lookout for eye-catching photographs for the front cover of News & Views. They should be portrait (vertical), in colour and of a high resolution.

Photograph Permissions

When submitting a photograph for possible publication in News and Views, please ensure you have the permission of anyone in the photograph for their image to appear in the magazine, both in print and online. In the case of children, parental permission must be obtained.

News & Views is the community magazine for West Lavington, Littleton Panell and Great and Little Cheverell. You should be able to find the latest News & Views in full colour on West Lavington Posts on Facebook, and on the West Lavington and Great and Little Cheverell Parish Council websites at: www.westlavington.org.uk
cheverellmagnaparrishcouncil.gov.uk www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND BENEFICE

Regular worship in our sister churches

9.00 am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell

4.30 pm Ebenezer Baptist Church, West Lavington

Benefice Office - 0708 98 77 55

c/o St John's Parish Office, Long Street, Devizes SN10 1NP.

Open Mon & Wed 3pm - 5pm (phone only) & Friday 3pm - 5pm

admin@lavingtonchurch.org

Benefice Administrator: **Catherine Brown**

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Little Cheverell St Peter's	Great Cheverell St Peter's
Sunday 6th September	10.30 am St Mary's Market Lavington Benefice Service Communion				
Sunday 13th September	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Barnabas at St Mary's ML	9.00 am Breakfast Church 9.30 am Service	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Barnabas at St Mary's ML		11.00 am Simple Communion
Sunday 20th September	10.30 am - St Barnabas Easterton Benefice Service Speaker TBC				10.00 am Welcome to Worship
Sunday 27th September	10.30 am - All Saints' West Lavington Benefice Service Speaker on climate and nature crisis: Revd Dr Mike Perry				
Sunday 4th October	10.30 am - St Peter's Great Cheverell Benefice Service with Baptism Speaker on climate and nature crisis: Revd Nigel Done				

Breakfast Church includes Bacon Rolls etc to start and a short service for all ages.

Church Wardens

West Lavington

Anne Wilson **0787 2444 858**

Mark Spindlow **07776 195 871**

Market Lavington

Amanda Newbury **0771 0149 066**

Ben Bannister **0758 769 1963**

Easterton

Sue Allen **01380 813603**

Pat Morrison **01380 812357**

Great Cheverell

Pauline Jenkinson **0798 665 8187**

Little Cheverell - Parish Contact

Marlis Rawlins **01380 816318**

REFLECTION

Autumn is fast approaching and the heat waves of the summer will soon be a distant memory. Summer visitors swifts, swallows and house martins will be starting their long journey to Africa. For meteorologists, September 1st is the beginning of Autumn. Days start to shorten noticeably and children return to school. John Keats, the poet describes it thus:

'Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness'

So what can we expect in the weeks ahead? Well, seemingly just about anything! On September 1st 1906, the temperature reached 34c in Manchester, when Jimmy Conlin made his debut for Manchester City, sporting a knotted hanky on his head. He and four other City players passed out from heat exhaustion. City finished the game with only six players and lost to Arsenal 4-1. Conlin would go on to play for England and become the second player in the world to be transferred for over £1000. On September 11th 1919, temperatures of 32c were recorded, making it the hottest day of the year, but only nine days later, on the 20th September, widespread snow fell!

It seems that at some time in the preceding years the country has experienced every type of weather possible, from mighty gales, hailstorms, to thunderstorms and whirlwinds. So while this can be the finest, most settled time of the year, be prepared for extremes.

Yet this is the month when nature yields its rich bounty, from conkers, hips and haws in the hedgerows, not forgetting blackberries, to all the fruits from our gardens. The crops from the fields are gathered in and safely stored. We have so much to be grateful for and we all need to take time to look at each day and see the beauty of it all, whatever the weather brings, be it the beauty of the turning leaves, or a raindrop settled on a spider's web. See the positive of what September brings and smile and say 'Thank you'.

Lesley Doyle-Davidson

VILLAGE LINK

West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell

Tel: 07598 947180

Call this number if you need transport for medical appointments and have no other means of getting there. Donations to cover expenses will be requested.



West Lavington Mothers' Union

A Heartfelt Thank You from the Garden Party Team!

We are absolutely delighted to share the wonderful results of our recent afternoon garden party. The event was very special, as it served a dual purpose: raising vital funds for Breast Cancer Now and celebrating the remarkable milestone of 150 years of the Mothers' Union.

Thanks to the immense generosity, warmth, and support of our wonderful village community, the afternoon was a resounding success. We are thrilled to announce that we raised a fantastic total of over £500. Even better, with the addition of Gift Aid, the charity will actually receive more than £600 to support its life-changing research and care.

Whether you baked a cake, donated a raffle prize, helped set up tables, or simply came along to enjoy the sunshine and a cup of tea and cake with us, you made a difference. Your kindness ensures that Breast Cancer Now can continue its vital work, while also helping us honour the legacy of the Mothers' Union's 150 years of Christian care for families worldwide.

We are so proud to live in such a supportive community. Thank you all so very much.

Our September meeting will be held on **Monday 14th September** at 54 High Street, West Lavington. The meeting starts at 2.15pm when we will be pleased to welcome our Rector, the Reverend Sam Park. Everyone is welcome!

Jackie Knipe jack_knipe@hotmail.co.uk

CHEVERELLS GARDEN CLUB

The Cheverells Garden Club has had a lovely summer. The glorious weather and dry conditions have meant a lot less mowing and weeding, and more time for socialising! In July we met to learn all about cordage and making string out of what we'd usually regard as weeds, and all the other uses they have. A new perspective on previously unwanted plants! The now traditional August barbecue was well attended as usual and it was a great social evening, with good food, drink and excellent company.



Next month, on **Tuesday September 8th**, we are walking around the village with Batman! Gareth Harris is a leading expert on all things bat and will be showing us how and where to look for them in our local area! I know that I have bats in my garden and it will be interesting to see how common they are in the village.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at: Helen.woodlands@outlook.com

Meet Wessex Water at Devizes Library

Tuesday 8th September, 10am - noon & 1pm - 2pm

A community drop in session, where you can chat to Wessex Water in person if you have a query about your water bill, your water and sewerage services, how to save water, or how to prevent sewer blockages. Further information is available at wessexwater.co.uk.



The Plain Players

Fundraising Play Reading

Wednesday 9th September

Churchill Arms, West Lavington Function Room

6.30pm for a 7pm start - £5 entry

Come and join The Plain Players for an evening reading of John Van Druten's gloriously camp comedy **Make Way for Lucia**, based on E. F. Benson's much-loved Mapp and Lucia 1930s novels.

Set in 1930s Tilling, it's a delicious battle for social supremacy between two formidable women. Elizabeth Mapp considers herself the undisputed queen of local society until the magnificent Lucia arrives on her patch. What follows is warfare conducted through gossip, music, art, invitations, Italian pretensions and exquisitely polite insults. It has two fantastic older female leads, a host of great character parts and plenty of wonderfully bitchy comedy.

Everyone is welcome. You can take a part and read, swap characters as we go, or simply grab a drink, sit back and listen. You don't need any acting experience and you don't need to be a member of The Plain Players. It's as much a social evening as a play reading!

Entry is £5, with all proceeds going towards supporting our new local theatre group, **The Plain Players**. If you would like to join the Plain Players, email plainplayers@gmail.com for more information.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th September 2026

10am-12pm

Market Lavington Community Hall



This year will mark our 10th and final year of holding our annual Macmillan coffee morning. Thank you to all those who have supported us over the last nine years, not forgetting all our helpers, without whom we couldn't have managed to raise a fantastic £9,000. If anybody would like to take on this fantastic fundraising event we would give them all the support they needed!



People's Emergency Briefing Screening

Thursday 17th September at 6.30pm

All Saints' Church, West Lavington

Following on from the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film at Market Lavington, it was agreed that this was such an important topic we should show the film again, and have the discussions in West Lavington.

Brothers Simon and Nick Oldridge, who are climate funders and communicators with a background in business, started this initiative by inviting 12,000 politicians and leaders from business to a briefing in Westminster. From that briefing came the impetus to hold these smaller briefings to inform the general public of the current situation and to press for a national televised emergency briefing to be held. Their aims are to enable informed discussion on the climate and nature crisis, enable society to respond to that crisis at the speed required and work together towards solutions, reaching a tipping point towards emergency action and a better future.

The film features Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and others. You can only see this film at in-person screenings, not online. After the screening there will be a facilitated discussion to help everyone air their views on what they have seen and what they would like to see happen next.

This briefing at All Saints' church is open to all. It comes from a scientific background, not from a faith background. There is no faith presentation in this screening.

However, for those who are interested on the Christian perspective on the climate and nature crisis, you are invited to our Benefice services, all at 10.30am, which follow up this theme:

Sunday 20th September: St Barnabas Church, Easterton.

Speaker to be confirmed.

Sunday 27th September: at All Saints' Church, West Lavington.

Speaker Rev'd Dr Mike Perry, the Bishop's Advisor for Creation Care and Climate Justice.

Sunday 4th October: at St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell.

Speaker Rev'd Nigel Done, Diocesan Director of Ordinands & Ministry Formation Team leader.

It's been a very hot summer – and perhaps this will help us all focus more clearly on the climate and nature crisis that threatens all aspects of British life. If you care about extreme weather, local flooding, air pollution, the cost of living, food prices and health, then please come to our People's Emergency Briefing screening. This film has hard facts but points towards hopeful solutions.

Fill a bag with your favourite spring bulbs!

Spring Bulb Sale, Saturday 12th September, 9.30am to 12.30pm, The Pavilion GC

Great Cheverell's Spring Bulb Sale is returning for the third year, offering many varieties of competitively priced spring flowering bulbs, supplied direct from growers in Lincolnshire. The Sale is on **Saturday 12th September at the Pavilion, Great Cheverell**, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Refreshments are available.

West Lavington Village Hall AGM Thursday 24th September at 7pm for 7.30pm

All are welcome. This will be the final AGM for the old WLVH Charity as the assets and operation of the Hall have now been transferred to the West Lavington Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

So please come along to hear about what's happened in the past year, the groups that use the Hall, opportunities to volunteer and the latest developments.

Sustainable Flower Arranging Workshop

St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell on Wednesday 30th September from 10-12.30

Our sustainable flower arranging workshop will be run by Carola Puddy, who arranges flowers for Salisbury Cathedral and has a sunflower farm in Codford. You will learn about eco-friendly ways to arrange flowers, see an arrangement being created and have the chance to create your own (using your own container, flowers and greenery). Cost £5.

For more details and to book your place and contact :

Fiona on 07540 330 889 or Nicola on 07824 397 111.



Streetscene

What a challenging few months this has been, with this heat wave and now a hosepipe ban. At least now we have had some rain, but sadly not enough! Our splendid volunteers have been amazing watering the Streetscene planters. What dedication this has shown - thank you very much to all concerned.

What an amazing village Fete in July, showing again the dedication from all involved in planning and executing the event. We had a shared Plant and Streetscene manpower stall. Thank you to everyone who bought plants and raffle tickets - every little helps!

Thank you very much to the Fete organisers who have generously given Streetscene a grant from the proceeds raised on the day. The monies will be put towards buying drought tolerant plants for planters going forward.

Susan West - 07957 224453



West Lavington Friendship Club

We have one more day trip arranged for this year. **On Wednesday 23rd September** we are going to Oakham Treasures Museum at Portbury. We will leave Lavington at 9.30am and return home by approximately 4.30pm. The cost will be £12.50. This is a super place to visit and it has a very good cafe!

For more details or to book a seat phone **Eileen on 01380 13264**

Paws Charity Dog Show

Sunday 13th September

Rainscombe Park, Oare SN8 4HZ, 10am - 4.30pm

A day of fun, entertainment and displays for dog lovers and families will raise funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust and Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance at Rainscombe Park, Oare, on **Sunday, 13th September**.

Among the attractions will be the Wessex K9 Dancers Display Team, who will have dogs dancing with their owners in a Heelwork to Music demonstration in the main ring and will also be inviting the audience to join in. K9AquaSports will be bringing a diving pool for dog diving and again owners will be allowed to let their dogs try the sport.

The Paws For Thought dog display team will be showing off their agility and intelligence with tricks and fun races. Among the highlights are dog races, fun agility, unusual retrieves, tricks and exceptional commentary and even a Jack Russell ladder walking. The display will be followed by the opportunity for owners and pets to take part in have-a-go Flyball with the team.

One of the highlights of the day will be twelve Fun Family Dog Show classes that are open to all dogs aged over six months. Entries open at 10.15am with the first class starting at 11.00am.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the day. Carers' tickets are available at 50 per cent discount and under 12s go free. Tickets are available at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events.



Upcoming Local Roadworks

2nd - 4th September: Churchill Arms, High Street, West Lavington.

Wessex Water works to repair manhole cover.

15th - 17th September: Road closure at the Ramscliff. West Lavington for Openreach works.

28th September: Church Street and Stibb Hill, West Lavington. Openreach works.



Come and Sing (or play!) Faure's Requiem Saturday 19th September in St Andrew's Church, Long Street, Devizes

Devizes Chamber Choir is putting on its first Come and Sing/Play when it will be diving deep into the masterpiece that is Faure's Requiem.

The Choir Director, Shaun Holley, has acquired a special score for organ and strings and so we are also in need of violin and viola players as well as singers!

Rehearsals start at 12 midday, and will be followed by an informal performance at 6pm. Rehearsal with strings will be from 3- 5pm. Scores and refreshments will be provided. The cost is £15 per singer, £5 for under-18s, and free for string players!

If you would like to take part in this exciting afternoon of music making, either by singing, or playing a string instrument, you can register at:

<https://www.devizeschamberchoir.org.uk/come-sing/>

Lavington and District Swimming Club Autumn Term 2026



Whether swimming for fun or lane swimming, our Club caters for all. Using the lovely Dauntsey School 25 metre Swimming Pool, we swim in term time and have two separate offerings: Tuesdays and Sundays, and Tuesdays and Thursday mornings.

Tuesdays and Sundays: Autumn Term starts on **Sunday 6th September** and includes 12 Tuesday swims and 11 Sunday swims, the last swim being **Tuesday 8th December**.

The Club swimming times are Sundays: 3.30pm to 5.30pm; **Tuesdays:** 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Membership fees for the term: £45 for individual and £90 for a family.

For further details about joining this offering, please contact **Alison Andrews**, on Lavingtonswim@gmail.com (Membership Secretary)

Morning Swimming starts **Thursday 3rd September** and is from 6.30am to 7.30am and includes both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Membership fee for the term is £45 for one session or £90 for both.

For further information about the morning swimming please contact **Phil Richardson**, Membership Secretary on ladscmorningswim@gmail.com





Free Places for 11-18 Year-olds at Choral Workshop

Saturday 19th September, 10am - 4pm
Edington Priory Church

Edington Arts is offering free places to young people in secondary school for their 2026 Choral Workshop on Saturday 19th September in Edington Priory Church. This is a wonderful opportunity (for young and old alike!) to get some excellent tuition on choral singing and vocal technique while learning music that is not usually part of choral society or choir repertoire.

The workshop will be led by Will Dawes, Director of Chapel Music at Somerville College, Oxford. Will is a highly sought after choral conductor, and successful freelance singer. He will work on four pieces by British composers: Benjamin Britten, Harold Darke, Charles Wood and Samuel Wesley. The music is relatively straightforward to learn and very singable, but offers great scope for working the pieces up to a high standard. Full programme information is on the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org where you can also book your place.

The day runs from Registration at 9.30am to a final run-through for friends and family after tea at approximately 4.30pm. The cost for adults is £25, and £10 for 18+ students, inclusive of music hire, tea or coffee on arrival and refreshments mid-morning. If you are interested in applying for one of the free places, please email anne@edingtonarts.org or phone **01380 831425** before booking.

You Should Be Bothered By AI

I am bothered by AI. I am bothered about the threat it poses to my future, to my career, and to the careers of my friends and colleagues. I am bothered about the environmental cost and the way it steals artists' work from under their feet.

In the last year, I have seen dozens of reports of websites having their works scraped by AI companies, including some sites where I had posted my work, stolen to train their products, without the consent of the site owners. There was absolutely nothing I could do; copyright infringement and intellectual property rights mean nothing, and the damage is already done.

I wonder whether my degree will be worth anything at all by the time I leave university. Far from having studio work and a stable career, I'll be moving from script to script, and it's not unlikely that I'll have to find a day job to keep a roof over my head. The artists in big animation

studios are overworked and underpaid, and AI does not help, as the studios begin to expect more with even less time and money.

According to a 2024 study, ChatGPT uses 500ml of water per query; a whole bottle for every message. Currently, the site processes 2.5 billion prompts a day. That is one billion, two hundred fifty million litres of water a day. The average four person household in the UK uses 450 litres a day.

The legal implications of AI are incredibly worrying. Not only is the use of AI becoming increasingly difficult to detect, but as it is given more control, it's increasingly vulnerable to being compromised, manipulated, and then manipulating us in turn.

I am bothered by AI, and you should be too.

Siobhan Conway

Siobhan, is about to start a university degree



A Bumper Fete!

WOW! What a bumper fete! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Fete the best ever, with takings over £5000, enabling us to give record donations to village groups. We were able to make grants to the following: All Saints' Church, West Lavington Village Hall, West Lavington WI, DAPS, WL Friendship Club, 1st Lavington Guides, WL Mothers' Union, Streetscene, The Plain Players, Wiltshire Youth for Christ and Market Lavington Museum.

It is impossible to list everyone who took part, but our community stallholders who raised the funds deserve a special mention: Benito and Connie Capone (BBQ), John Ford, Sam Illingworth, Loveday Lamb (Beer tent), Angela Spencer and family (Books), Jo Ellett-Swiggs (Bottle stall), Anji Scofield and team (Bric-a-brac), Emily and Ruby Rose Muns (DAPS), Rebecca Donegan (Face painting), Emma Sysum (Guides), Jackie and David Knipe (Mothers' Union Produce and Guess the Ham), Susan West, Denise Innes and Sue Bonney (Streetscene and Plants), Liz Evans and Liz Bord and team (WI teas).

Thank you to our brilliant setting up and clearing volunteers: Matt Bastone, Gary Spencer, John Ford, Clive Innes, Toby Robson and friends, Jan Scott, Sam and James Illingworth, Loveday and Ian Lamb, David and Georgina A'Bear, Mike and Carolyn Parker, Alisdair and Sally Fray and Phil Bonney.

And more thank yous to:

- Chris Bonney for putting all our signs up, organising car parking and being our Announcer Extraordinaire, with thanks to David A'Bear for his help.
- Mark Spindlow for organising another successful Dog Show.
- Mike and Judy Page for their efforts once again in running the Grand Prize Draw, and all those who donated prizes.
- Dauntsey's School for supplying our sound equipment and tables
- All the non-fundraising groups and commercial stalls who add immensely to the Fete.
- And, of course, not forgetting the Amesbury Town Band, Devizes Jubilee Morris, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service and St. John Ambulance.

The Fete Committee was delighted with the help received from the community this year following our open meeting in April. It makes our annual village event more sustainable and we will continue to encourage volunteers by holding another open meeting in Spring 2027.

Thank you all once again for a brilliant day.

Sue Bastone
Fete Chair

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Devizes welcomes its first female Town Crier!

There are moments when history feels less like something written in books and more like something happening right in front of you. Standing in Devizes Market Place, raising my voice with the traditional cry of “Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!”, I had the incredible honour of becoming the first female Town Crier of Devizes.

I’ve done some scary things in my life, but I can’t remember the last time I felt quite so nervous. Surrounded by smiling faces and the rich history of this remarkable market town, I realised I wasn’t just taking on a role, I was becoming part of Devizes’ HERstory.



The tradition of Town Crying stretches back centuries. The familiar cry of “Oyez!” comes from the Old French meaning “hear ye” or “listen”. Long before newspapers, radio, social media or even News and Views, Town Criers were the community’s news service, proclaiming royal announcements and local events. They were even granted royal protection, as they were often responsible for delivering unpopular news and could become the target of public anger. King John decreed that anyone who harmed a Town Crier would face severe punishment for treason - hence the term, “don’t shoot the messenger”!

Women have played their part in this HERstory too. One of the earliest recorded female Town Criers was Betty Dick of 18th-century Scotland, who is said to have used a saucepan instead of a bell to gather a crowd. Ladies, haven’t we all felt the need to do that from time to time?

It was especially moving to wear robes once owned by Betty Boothroyd, Britain’s first female Speaker of the House of Commons, kindly loaned by Dig It Vintage in Devizes.

I was proud to stand there representing every woman who has ever felt overlooked, underestimated or told to “tone it down”. Like many menopausal women, I have reached a point where I don’t care what people think of me. I know my voice matters, and there is very little anyone can do about it, because I have a big bell a big voice....and the historic protection of the King!

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! God Save the King!

Charlotte Howard

A Book for Everyone

Celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026

In a world of constant notifications and busy schedules, picking up a book can seem almost old-fashioned. Still, reading remains one of the simplest and most powerful things we can do for our minds, our imagination and our wellbeing. That is why 2026 has been designated the National Year of Reading, with the nationwide Go All In campaign, encouraging people of every age to rediscover reading and connect it with things they already love.

So why does reading matter? For children, books are a remarkably effective way of developing language. In research by the National Literacy Trust examining why young people read, 51.8% said reading helped them learn new words, while 34.4% said it helped them understand different views and 28.3% said it helped them learn about other cultures.

Reading is not simply about academic achievement, however. It can help us understand people whose experiences differ from our own and give us the freedom to imagine other possibilities. Reading is one of the most powerful ways to reconnect with the world.

That last point applies at every age. A novel before bed, a biography with a cup of tea, a magazine in the garden or a book shared with a child, can provide something increasingly precious in today's world, where technology can become all consuming: a place to let go of stress. Reading gives our brains somewhere peaceful to rest.

There really is a book out there for everyone. Reading does not have to mean tackling a lengthy classic. It might be a mystery, romance, adventure, biography, history, cookery book, nature guide, graphic novel, poetry collection or even an audiobook. No matter the length, format, or style, any book you can connect with and truly enjoy is well worth giving a go.

Perhaps that is the real invitation of the National Year of Reading: not simply to read more, but to find your book. Visit the library, swap a book with a friend, read to a child, rediscover an old favourite or try something completely unexpected. Whether you want to learn, escape, or just switch off for a while, there has never been a better time to pick up a book and get lost in the story.

Sophie Richards

Sophie is a sixth form student from West Lavington, studying English Literature



Market Lavington Library opening times:

Wednesday afternoons: 2 - 5pm

Fridays all day: 10am - 5pm

Saturday mornings: 10am - 12 noon

For further information, pay a visit to the Library,
or contact Wiltshire Libraries on **01380 818358**
or email **libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk**

Books for every age

Young children

- The Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson - fiction
- Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak - fiction
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle - fiction

Older children

- The Explorer, Katherine Rundell - fiction
- Time Stops For No Mouse, Michael Hoeye - fiction
- Astrophysics for Supervillains, Matthew Bothwell - non-fiction/informational

Teenager

- The Hobbit, J. R. R. Tolkien - fiction
- Six of Crows, Leigh Bardugo - fiction
- Born a Crime, Trevor Noah - non-fiction/autobiography

Adults

- The Thursday Murder Club, Richard Osman - fiction
- A Gentleman in Moscow, Amor Towles - fiction
- The Salt Path, Raynor Winn - non-fiction



Marlborough Literature Festival

24th – 27th September 2026

A book festival in beautiful Wiltshire with events for all

The 2026 LitFest programme is now available. Our 17th festival will bring four days of inspiring conversations, ideas, storytelling, bestselling authors and family-friendly events.

Tickets available from:

www.marlbroughlitfest.org

By telephone: **0333 6663366** Mon–Sat 9am–5pm

The White Horse Bookshop Marlborough and from the
Box Office in the Town Hall

over the festival weekend from **4.30pm Fri 25 September**.

Please note that the bookshop cannot take orders by telephone.



Nearby NGS Open Gardens in September

Children's entry is free unless otherwise stated.

For latest information go to www.ngs.org.uk

Saturday 5th September

Falkners Cottage, North Newton, Pewsey SN9 6LA 1400 - 1700 £7

This 5 acre site includes a formal garden with colourful borders, topiary and box framed parterre and courtyard 'rooms' with contemporary sculpture. Behind the thatched barn lies a kitchen garden with hens. There is a meadow with ornamental trees, a small lake with a summerhouse on an island, a woodland, a wildlife pond and a bog garden. Refreshments.

Sunday 6th September

1 Southview, Wick Lane, Devizes SN10 5DR. 1330 - 1630 £5

An atmospheric and very long town garden, full of wonderful planting surprises at every turn. Densely planted with pots near the house and large borders further up, it houses a collection of beautiful and often unusual plants, shrubs and trees, many with striking foliage. Colour from seasonal flowers is interwoven within this textural tapestry. 'Truly inspirational' is often heard from visitors.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September

Wellaway, Close Lane, Marston, SN10 5SN. 1300 - 1700 £6

Two acre flower arranger's garden comprising herbaceous borders, orchard, vegetable garden, ornamental and wildlife ponds, lawns and naturalised areas. Shrubberies and rose garden, other areas underplanted with bulbs or ground cover. Springtime particularly colourful with daffodils, tulips and hellebores. Extensive autumn colour. Homemade teas.

Wednesday 16th September

Blackland House, Quemerford, Calne SN11 8UQ. 1400 - 1700 £10

Formal walled productive and cutting garden, traditional glasshouses, rose garden and wide herbaceous borders. Interesting topiary, trained fruit trees, historic tulips (inc the National Collection of historic tulips). Certified organic with the Soil Association. This is a rare opportunity to see the garden in autumn, where monumental containers will be spilling over with dahlias, zinnias and grasses. Homemade teas £5. Pre-booking essential via ngs.org.uk

Thursday 17th September

Special Plants, Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton, Chippenham SN14 8LA. 10.30 - 17.00 £7.00

Architect-designed ¾ acre hillside garden with stunning views. Exotic plants. Gravel gardens for borderline hardy plants. Black and white (purple and silver) garden. Vegetable garden and orchard. Hot border. Lemon and lime bank. Annual, biennial and tender plants for late summer colour. Spring fed ponds. Bog garden. Woodland walk. Allium alley. Homemade teas.



Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate

At the time of writing, Wessex Water has introduced a temporary hosepipe ban for the first time in 50 years. This will not be a one off - our summers are going to get hotter. We cannot rely on the water companies to do their job. We need to change how we garden and how we use water, and we need to start now. Here are some tips to help.

Better watering: water deeply at the roots, early morning or evening; don't just sprinkle the surface. Let established lawns turn brown - they will recover.

Save the water we waste: put a bucket in the shower and use grey water from washing-up on established ornamental plants, but don't use it on crops eaten raw. Avoid water containing bleach, disinfectant or salt.

Capture rain: connect water butts together. Add butts to sheds, garages and greenhouses.

Cover the soil: bare soil loses moisture. Mulch in spring and autumn with garden compost, composted bark, woodchip, leaf mould, wool or cardboard. You can also "chop and drop" - cut suitable soft plant material and leave it around plants to break down naturally.

Adapt your planting: it's tempting to create Mediterranean gardens, but we won't have Mediterranean winters. We will have months of cold, saturated soil and extremely heavy rainfall. We need resilient plants to cope with both. Consider Nepeta, Geranium, Echinacea, Echinops, Perovskia, Penstemon, Achillea, Sedum, Eryngium and ornamental grasses such as Calamagrostis. Roses have done well this year. Once established, they are tough and deep-rooted.

Ditch summer bedding: filling pots and baskets with thirsty annuals just to throw them away in autumn wastes water and money. Instead, plant with Lavender, Salvia, Rosemary, Salvia, Erigeron, Hylotelephium, Sempervivum, Agapanthus, hardy Geranium or compact grasses.

Use fewer, bigger pots: the larger the volume of compost, the more slowly it will dry out.

We can't control the weather, but we can make our gardens a lot better at coping with whatever it throws at them.

Capability Charlotte

I offer one-to-one consultations to create a resilient garden on a budget. Email me at info@capabilitycharlotte.com

Getting News and Views to its readers

Can you help?

News and Views would be lost without its volunteer network of distributors in the four villages we serve and is always looking for new recruits. We are currently looking for a central distributor for Littleton Panell. This entails receiving a bulk lot of magazines and then splitting them up into packs for each distributor in the village. It takes a few hours once a month. If you could help, please contact **Anji Scofield** on **01380 812720**, or email: anjischofield@icloud.com

Dauntsey School Mercers Talks

Autumn Term

Dauntsey's School has published its Mercers' Talks Autumn Programme which brings together expert perspectives on the future of technology, the mindset and discipline of elite performance, and the shifting landscape of global politics.

The Talks run throughout the academic year and are open to all. Admission is free, but seats must be reserved online in advance, and confirmation of booking brought to the event. All talks begin at 19:30 and take place in the Memorial Hall. Booking is online via the School website at dauntseys.org or phone **01380 814500**. This term's talks are:

Mark Foster

Wednesday 23rd September

Mark Foster is one of the UK's most successful competitive swimmers, with a career spanning over two decades. He won 51 international medals, competed at five Olympic Games, and held World, European and Commonwealth titles, as well as breaking eight world records. Since retiring from competitive swimming, Mark has built a successful career as a broadcaster, speaker and ambassador. He is a passionate advocate for health, wellbeing and performance, inspiring audiences to adopt balanced and mindful approaches to life.

Sophie Hackford

Wednesday 7th October

Sophie Hackford is a technologist and futurist who has delivered over 300 thought-provoking talks to boards and executive teams, exploring the impact of emerging science and technology. She advises John Deere & Co on the future of food, climate and agriculture. She is widely recognised for making complex ideas accessible, offering clear and compelling insights into the technologies shaping our future.

Tim Marshall

Wednesday 11th November

Tim Marshall is a leading journalist, author and broadcaster with over 30 years' experience reporting on global affairs. A former Diplomatic Editor and foreign correspondent for Sky News, he has reported from across Europe, the Middle East and the United States, covering some of the most significant events of recent decades. The author of several critically acclaimed books, including the international bestseller *Prisoners of Geography*, Tim offers sharp, engaging analysis of the forces shaping global politics today.



IN AID OF

THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST
 Registered charity 115150
By kind permission of our hosts, Mr & Mrs John Roberts

Pre-loved ladies' designer and high street branded clothing at bargain prices

BAG A BARGAIN

NEARLY NEW DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE

Deverill Storage
 c/o Manor Farm, Longbridge
 Deverill, Warminster BA12 7FB

Friday, September 4
 10am to 6pm Tickets £7

Saturday, September 5
 9.30am to 2pm **Free entry**

Refreshments available at our licensed pop-up cafe

tickets: wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events

SEPTEMBER RHYME TIMES

4th & 18th September
 from 10.15 to 10.45

Market Lavington Library

Rhyme Time is held every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month

For babies toddlers pre-schoolers primary-age children & their carers

If you're not a member of Wiltshire Libraries we can easily join you up - just bring along some ID

Market Lavington Library
 Opening Times
 Wednesdays 2pm - 5pm
 Fridays 10am to 5pm
 Saturdays 10am to 12 noon



RAISING THE ROOF CONCERT

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Little Cheverell

FROM OPERA TO THE WEST END
Featuring

Carlos Alonso	Barbara Gompels
Paula Boyagis	Barney Ackerman
Jim Donovan	Tony James (piano)

In aid of the St Peter's Church Roof Appeal

Tickets: £15
 Includes wine & canapes

From: **Devizes Books & Great Cheverell Village Stores**

Enquiries: pboyagis@gmail.com

Help preserve and protect our beautiful church for future generations



THE PLAIN PLAYERS

FUNDRAISING PLAY READING
Wednesday 9th September
Churchill Arms Function Room
West Lavington
6.30pm for a 7pm start

Do join us for a reading of John van Druten's comedy *Make Way for Lucia* based on EF Benson's Mapp & Lucia 1930s novels

Set in 1930s Tilling it's a delicious battle for social supremacy between two women

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

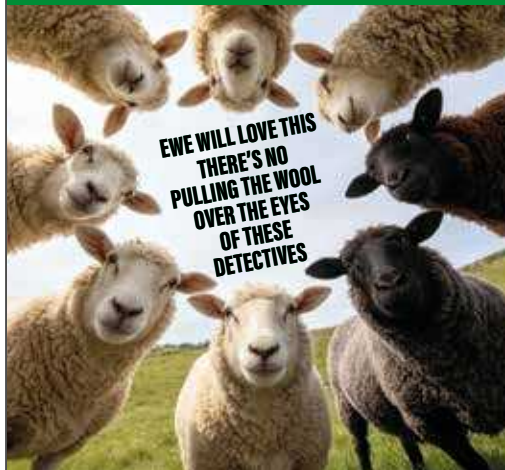
You can take part read, swap characters or just grab a drink and listen

ENTRY IS £5
 Proceeds go to the **PLAIN PLAYERS**



The Great Cheverell PAVILION Club

UNDER OUR LICENCE AGREEMENT WE CANNOT PUBLICLY NAME THE FILM WE ARE SHOWING



Saturday September 12th

Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm

Members Free - Guests £5

Devizes Town Council presents



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th September 2026

Market Lavington Community Hall

10am – 12pm

OUR 10th & FINAL YEAR

*Thank you to all who have supported us over the past 10 years
not forgetting all of our helpers*

Without them we wouldn't have raised a fantastic £9000

Please come and join us for tea, coffee and cake!



*If anyone would like to take on this fundraising event
we will give them all the support they need.*

RETURNING FOR THE THIRD YEAR



SPRING BULB SALE

Direct from the Growers in Lincolnshire

Fill a bag of your favourite spring bulbs

Competitively priced

Saturday 12th September 9.30am - 12.30pm

At the Pavilion, Great Cheverell

Delicious Refreshments available



EDINGTON ENSEMBLE

Sunday 13th September at 4pm

Market Lavington Community Hall, SN10 4DG

Piano – John Reid

Violin – Daphne Moody

Cello – Bryony Moody

Rachmaninoff – Trio Élégiue No. 1 in G minor

Shostakovich – Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67

Beethoven – The Archduke Trio in B♭ major, Op. 97

Tickets £20 – under 18s free
to include a glass of wine

Tickets to be booked and paid for in advance

Contact: Daphne Moody

daphne.moody@btinternet.com

or 07701 078606



**PROMS
IN THE
PARK**

**FREE
ENTRY**

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2PM
HILLWORTH PARK - DEVIZES

Don't forget your flags
*Devizes Town Band & Fantasy Radio
will be there*

www.DevizesTownBand.com



NAVIGATE SEND TOGETHER

Are you a
parent, carer or
loved one of a
child or young person
living with **SEND**?

Pop in for a chat
at our welcoming
drop-in session

Meet other parents
and carers, share
experiences, and
connect with the
Family Navigator and
Spurgeons's volunteers

Meet-ups are on
the 2nd Monday
each month
Drop in (no need to book)
from 1.30pm - 3.00pm
Wiltshire Family Hub
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge BA14 8JN

The sessions may change. See the Family Hub FB page for updates

**All
Together**
Supporting Families in Wiltshire

in Partnership with
Spurgeons - Wiltshire Council



**LAVINGTON & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB**

Wednesday 16th September 7:15pm
West Lavington Village Hall SN10 4H

Existing members and those interested
in joining our friendly club are very welcome

Growing in Peat-Free Compost
a talk by Joe Craley

Joe has worked in horticulture since 1986
and specialises in soil and growing media.
He's designed many compost mixes for growers,
golf clubs and premiership football clubs.

Competition - a plate of tomatoes

Come and join us for what promises to be
a very informative and enjoyable evening!
Refreshments available

f Lavington & District Gardening Club
online @ lavingtongc.co.uk



Come and Sing!

Saturday 19th September

St Andrew's Church
Long Street, Devizes

Fauré Requiem

Rehearsal Start 12 noon
Informal Performance 18:00

Scores will be provided

REGISTER AT



Tickets £15

www.devizeschamberchoir.org.uk/come-sing

CHARITY NIGHT of LIVE SWING JAZZ

The Nestling Trust invites you to step back
into the Golden Era
featuring toe tapping favourites
from the 1940s & 1950s

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
7.30 pm

Market Lavington Community Hall

Complimentary canapes will be served



TICKETS £12 from

Devizes Books
St Arbucks

Sue Hamlin
07747 062 757

Mike Gaiger
07789 557 859



We warmly invite unpaid Carers to an

AFTERNOON CREAM TEA



Take a well-deserved break, enjoy wonderful company, and connect
with others who understand.

Tuck into a spread of freshly made sandwiches, scones with clotted
cream and jam, mini-cakes, and hot drinks. Just let us know about any
allergies when you book.

Wednesday 23rd September
1pm until 2.30pm

 **The Bear Hotel**
Devizes, SN10 1HS

Booking is essential.
Please contact us on:
01380 710 300
(Option 2)



CHARITY VINTAGE TEA DANCE

SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

2pm - 5pm

Market Lavington Community Hall SN10 4DG

featuring the
SALISBURY BIG BAND
Raffle & Competition
for the Best Dressed

**OH I
DO LIKE TO
SWING
BESIDE THE
SEASIDE**

TICKETS

£10pp (drink + cake)

£16pp (picnic + drink)

<https://tickets.co.uk/events/i-do-like-to-swing-beside-the-seaside>



FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 30th September 10am - 12.30pm

St Peter's Church, Great Cheverell SN10 5YA

A sustainable flower-arranging workshop with
Carola Puddy from the Sunflower Farm, Codford

<https://flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/>



The workshop will be run by Carola Puddy, who arranges flowers for Salisbury Cathedral and has a sunflower farm in Codford.

You will learn about eco-friendly ways to arrange flowers, see an arrangement being created and have the chance to create your own (using your own container, flowers and greenery).



Please contact Fiona 07540330889

or Nicola 07824397111

to book your place and to receive more details.

FIN & MARK

Acoustic Duo



Live @ **THE BELL**

- GREAT CHEVERELL -

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

FROM - 8:30PM



WILTSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD - STUDY DAY

Wiltshire Towns & Their Buildings - Hidden Gems

Saturday 3rd October 10.00am - 16.15pm

A closer look at Chippenham

John Chandler

Oriel Cottage Salisbury - timber & text

Suzanne Keene

Westbury: town and borough

Steve Hobbs

1-3 Northgate Street Devizes - a tale of two fires

Dorothy Treasure

Town Halls & Market Halls - a fine heritage

James Holden



Bromham Community Hub, New Road, Bromham SN15 2JB

£27: OAPs £26 - Students £22 - Members £20.50

Option buffet lunch if booked in advance

01249 705508 dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.gov.uk

BRATTON SILVER BAND

AARDMAN
PRESENTS



A CRACKING **LIVE** FAMILY FILM SHOWING
WITH A LIVE BRASS BAND!

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
DEVIZES CORN EXCHANGE
SHOW TIMES 11:00AM & 2:00PM

(DOORS OPEN 30 MINS BEFORE SHOWING)

SEE YOU THERE!



Wed 7th October
Starts 11am

How Advertising
Exploits Fine Art

Melksham
Assembly Hall

Levi's



Mad men and artists or how advertising exploits fine art.

We discover discover how Leonardo, Raphael
and Michelangelo have seen their work
transformed by the advertising industry.

You can attend your first lecture for free, regular guests £8
Details of the full lecture programme go to:

www.tasnorthwils.org.uk



Proudly Present

SONGS FROM THE STAGE

An evening of musical entertainment

West Side Story

Phantom of The Opera



CHESS

CAROUSEL

Me & My Girl

My Fair Lady

Les Misérables

CABARET

Guys & Dolls

and many more...

Easterton Village Hall

Saturday 10th October 2026

Doors & Bar open 7pm & curtain up 7.30pm

All profits going to Easterton Village Hall Flush Fund

Tickets £12 purchase online from mid-July at
www.eastertonvh.org

Cheverell Magna Housing Needs Survey



The parish of Cheverell Magna is conducting a housing needs survey until 12 October 2026. The survey is being led by Wiltshire Council on behalf of the parish council.

The aim of the survey is to determine the housing needs of the parish and to understand residents' attitudes to new housing development. The survey considers the need for both open market and affordable housing together with the need for adapted housing or housing with care or support. It will also help us to understand your views on new housing development in the parish.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, you can obtain a paper copy of the questionnaire from:

If you live, work, or have a close family connection to Cheverell Magna, we would like you to complete the survey which is available at:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/housing-needs-survey/
cheverell-magna



Scan me

Parish Clerk
Email: neighbourhoodplan@cheverellmagna.parishcouncil.gov.uk

Any paper copies of the survey should be returned directly to Wiltshire Council in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Wiltshire Council

WHITE HORSE OPERA LA TRAVIATA

BY GIUSEPPE VERDI
SUNG IN ENGLISH



DEVIZES WHARF THEATRE

OCTOBER TUES 27, WED 28,

FRI 30 AT 7.30PM, SAT 31 AT 2PM

TICKETS £20 FROM

DEVIZES BOOKS (CASH ONLY) &

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/WHITEHORSEOPERA

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1194308

REMEMBRANCE Sunday Lunch



West Lavington Village Hall

8th November 12.30

All Welcome - £22 for 2 courses

Children under 10 years old half price

Tickets and further info from:

mrsannewilson@gmail.com

ST BARNABAS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

5th & 6th December

THEME
Countries



For info and guidelines contact:

June 07498 493121 junwri@outlook.com

You are invited to join **MARKET LAVINGTON FILM CLUB**

The Club's aim is to provide a variety of films to suit most tastes

October 2026 to July 2027

Dates for the new season are:

10th October; 14th November; 12th December;

9th January; 13th February; 13th March;

10th April; 8th May; 12th June and 10th July

Films are shown FREE to all members once a month
at Market Lavington Community Hall

Membership
is required

**Individual Adult
£15 for 10 Films**

Cash Bar &
ice Cream available

Pick up a
Membership Form
from the
Community Hall

or for more information
email:

suestone1948@gmail.com

Tel: 01380 812636

Carers Together Wiltshire

Parent Carer Virtual Group

Third Thursday of the month

7.00 - 8.00pm

A monthly online chat for Parent Carers.
For a link to join, please email

[jo.hiller-culley@](mailto:jo.hiller-culley@carerstogethertwiltshire.org.uk)
carerstogethertwiltshire.org.uk



Great Cheverell Rural Housing Needs Survey

Residents of Great Cheverell, we need your help!

To help inform the village's Neighbourhood Plan, Wiltshire Council will be undertaking a Rural Housing Needs Survey of Great Cheverell in the autumn.

We encourage residents of Great Cheverell to complete the Survey so that the housing needs of the community now and in the future can be understood.

The Survey enables Wiltshire Council to gain the opinion of local people living in rural parishes with regards to future development within the Parish. The findings of the Survey will be incredibly useful to help inform the village's Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently in development.

The Survey will run over a three-week period, from **Monday 21st September, closing on Monday 12th October**. The Survey will be online, with a few paper copies available should a household be unable to complete the Survey online.

Further information on how to complete the Survey will be distributed to residents in advance of the Survey opening. There will be a 'drop in' session for residents to come along and ask questions of members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on **Tuesday 29th September** at 7pm at the Pavilion, or if you have any questions, please email:

neighbourhoodplan@cheverellmagnaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you in advance for your input into the survey.

The Parish Council met on **20th July** and draft minutes of the meeting are now published on our website. Parish Steward visits have resumed after a long gap and a number of tasks were completed around the village, with more being completed at the next opportunity. The Parish Council appreciates residents keeping us advised of issues requiring maintenance. Issues with roads can be reported directly to Wiltshire Council for attention using the 'My Wilts' online reporting tool. This can be done using a PC or mobile and the app can be downloaded from your app store.

Now that the summer is drawing to a close, it is time to tidy hedges. If you have a hedge adjacent to the highway please ensure it is cut back to your boundary to allow pedestrians to stand safely on the verge and allow cars to pass without damage to paintwork. In some cases, the Parish Council may formally ask residents that a hedge is attended to in the interests of all road users.

The Council will meet again on **Monday 12th October at 7pm** in the Village Hall.

Cllr. Mike Phillips – Chairman Tel: 07908 143389 www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk



Little Cheverell Village Hall

We hope that you are enjoying our Pop-Up Pub series of events. These have evolved over the last year, and we continue to find ways of making each one enjoyable. Please let us know how we can further improve them. There will not be a Pop-up in September due to holidays, but the October Pop-Up pub will feature the fabulous Dough Joe Pizza Co (eat in or take away).

So join us for some great food on 24th October from 6pm. Our venue is family and dog friendly, we offer flat access for wheelchairs, free Wi-Fi, modern heating and cooling, supper from a fiver and reasonably priced beer and wine from local suppliers. We welcome visitors from Little Cheverell and surrounding villages as well as visitors from further away. If you haven't tried out the experience, why not join us for a drink and supper.

If you enjoyed the Hall in the past, it would help us if you could leave an honest review on Google Maps, just click on the Hall's location to access the page or search for Little Cheverell Village Hall. Please do follow us on Facebook by searching for our page "Little Cheverell Village Hall".

Proceeds from our events help us maintain and improve the Hall, which is a registered charity providing a valuable social opportunity for our visitors.

24th October - Pop-Up Pub with Dough Joe Pizza Co.

31st October - Halloween Children's party. Contact **Liz Leversha** on **07885 636616**

Carers Together Wiltshire Devizes Carer Cafe

First Wednesday of the month

The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

Sept 2nd 10.30-12.00

Our cafes are a great way to make new friends and enjoy a cuppa, cake and a chat with others in relaxed, friendly surroundings. Come when you can and stay for as long, or as little as you like



Carers Together Wiltshire Parent Carer Group

Second Wednesday of the month

The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

Sept 9th 10.30 - 12.00

A chance for unpaid Parent Carers to chat, relax and catch-up – it's all about connecting, having fun and looking after your mental well-being! A representative from the WPCC will be in attendance to talk about the work that they do.

You can contact us on **01380 710300** or email **enquiries@carerstogethertwiltshire.org.uk** or visit our website **<https://carerstogethertwiltshire.org.uk/>**

We all hope everyone had a wonderful summer. As we return to work and school I want to tell you about some of the things the Parish Council will be working on this autumn. If any of these or other points are of interest, you can get involved either as a Parish Councillor or as a one-off member of a project team.

We voted earlier in the year to resurface the **Village Hall car park**. Plans have been drawn up and this autumn we will seek planning consent and tender for a supplier.

We will be replacing a piece of equipment in **Robert's Playground** as part of our ongoing efforts to keep the play equipment current. We will be looking to find and apply for grants that will enable us to go further and faster.

We continue to work on the long-term risks of **flooding** and things we can do using natural flood defence to protect the village.

Our efforts to establish an update to our **neighbourhood plan continue**. This is an important document because it lays out the types of housing development that we find acceptable as a community. It does not protect us completely but allows us to have our voice heard.

Our three year contract for **grounds maintenance** for the recreation ground ends in the winter so we will be building a list of requirements and then tendering for a contractor.

Our **Footpaths Group** will continue to walk, check and help keep our rights of way clear and usable for everyone. Watch for our **Pathfinders working parties**.

Vehicle speed and road safety are a priority, and our **Speedwatch team** always has a place for new members. We are also working with Wiltshire Council on how we can make the narrow road around All Saints' Church safer. We are also lobbying on speed limits, especially at the 50mph limit to the north of Littleton Panell and speed limits in Mill lane and around Sandfield. Should we apply for a 20mph limit for Sandfield, Mill Lane housing area? Tell us what you think at wlc@westlavington.org.uk

We have one vacancy for a **Parish Councillor**. If you are interested please contact our Clerk John, by email at clerk@westlavington.org.uk

The September Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Giles Room of the Village Hall on **Thursday 3rd September at 7pm**.

Peter West
Chair, West Lavington Parish Council

Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance

2026 mission figures so far this year

So far in 2026, Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance has attended **595 missions**, including **28 in Devizes** and the surrounding areas. February was our busiest ever, making it the first February in our history to respond to more than 100 missions. The proportion of missions attended by a critical care doctor has increased from 61% in 2025 to 65% so far this year. That means more patients can receive advanced procedures and lifesaving interventions at the scene, bringing hospital-level care directly to the patient.

Based in central Wiltshire, our helicopter can reach anywhere in Wiltshire within 11 minutes – and the centre of Bath in just four. We’re here when you need us most – but in the nicest possible way, we hope you don’t.

We provide critical medical care by land and air across Wiltshire and Bath, delivering the same level of care as a hospital by bringing our expert team and specialist equipment directly to those in need as fast as humanly possible.

We are on call 365 days a year, 19 hours a day. Our team responds to an average of three incidents daily, attending by helicopter or critical care car. This vital work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our Wiltshire and Bath communities. As a registered Charity, we receive no regular government funding and rely entirely on the generous donations and support of our local communities.

There are many ways you can help support your local air ambulance. Whether you join us at one of our events this year, host your own community fundraiser, take part in our raffles, leave us a legacy, become a volunteer, or support us in one of the many other ways available, we are incredibly grateful for every way our supporters help us.

Find out more at wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk



Our schools are all still on holiday as this News and Views go to press.

Their updates will return in the October issue.

Term dates for local schools - include closures for Teacher Development Days

DAPS, St Barnabas & Lavington School

Autumn term: Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December

Half term: Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October

Holy Trinity

Autumn term: Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December.

Half term: Thursday 22nd October to Friday 30th October

Dauntseys

Autumn term: Thursday 3rd September to Friday 12th December

Half term: Friday 16th October to Sunday 2nd November

TRINITY CHURCH

We meet in the Community Hall, Market Lavington every Sunday morning at **10.30 am** unless stated otherwise.

Visitors to our informal style of worship in the United Reformed Church/Methodist tradition are always welcome. Do come along.

All services are accompanied by refreshments.

Services for September

Sunday 6th September:	Trinity Church Service. This will be a local arrangement. Please check the Community notice board for more information nearer the day.
Sunday 13th September:	United Service at St Mary's Church, Market Lavington. Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham
Sunday 20th September:	Trinity Church Service Led by Jeannie MacMeekin
Sunday 27th September th:	Trinity will be joining All Saints' Church, West Lavington. This is a Benefice Service led by Revd Mike Perry and will discuss creation care and environmental stewardship. All are welcome.

Church Minister: Revd Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes, Wilts.

01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Trinity Church Secretary: Liz Pike

0779 091 0968 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Postal address: Trinity Church Secretary, c/o St. Arbucks Cafe,
1 Church St, Market Lavington SN10 4DT

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Wiltshire Council

The Sirens' Song

I didn't like school. Most lessons held little interest for me. My attitude was, why should I waste time tuning in to double maths when I could be daydreaming. Suffice to say, school didn't much like me either, and I left with a string of low-grade qualifications. My only decent-ish result was a grade CO-Level in Classical Studies.

That was my favourite subject. The teacher, Mr Hamlet, was brilliant. He made the tales of ancient Greece and Rome seem vibrantly alive. I found Homer's Iliad and Odyssey so captivating that I may actually have done some revision for the Classical Studies exam. CSE Physics, not so much. With all that in mind, I eagerly booked tickets for Christopher Nolan's film version of The Odyssey in all its stunning Imax glory.

One episode in Odysseus's epic journey home especially struck me. The sirens bit. You know, those beautiful creatures who sang a song so alluring that passing sailors were drawn to shore, where their ship was promptly dashed on the rocks.

Odysseus desperately wanted to hear the sirens' song, but he didn't especially want to be shipwrecked. The solution? Odysseus had his crew stop their ears with wax and had himself lashed to the ship's mast. That way, he could hear the song but wasn't able to grab the tiller and send his ship careering toward the rocks. Clever, eh? When they were safely out of earshot, Odysseus was set free, and the crew removed the wax from their lugholes. In the film version, our hero explains what the Sirens' song was all about to his curious shipmates,

'It was all the things you wanted it to be... then, all the things you wished you'd never wished for.... It told you what you most want is what you most can't have. And what you most can't have is what you already had and lost. It was the song of all the promises I failed to keep. And it told me I don't really want to go home.'

You won't find a song like that on Spotify. It speaks of the restless longing of the human heart. In the end, the pull of home won out for Odysseus. He risked all to get to his island kingdom of Ithaca and his beloved Penelope, who awaited him there.

The Sunday after watching The Odyssey, we sang a song in church that was to my mind more wonderful than that of Homer's sirens:

*There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
And they will lead me home.*

(Stuart Townend)

Guy Davies www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Wed 2nd:	Open Auditions for The Plain Players' first production, Giles Room, WLVH, 7pm.
Thurs 3rd:	WL Parish Council meeting, Giles Room, WLVH, 7pm.
Fri 4th - Sat 5th :	Bag a Bargain fashion sale in aid of the Bobby Van Trust, Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, BA12 7FB. Fri 10am - 6pm Tickets £7; Sat 9.30am - 2pm, free entry.
Sat 5th:	WL WI Sponsored Walk Raising the Roof concert in aid of St Peter's Church LC roof fund. St Peter's, LC, 7.30pm, Tickets £15 Devizes Carnival Procession starting from Long Street at 6.10pm.
Tues 8th:	Meet Wessex Water at Devizes Library, 10am - 12 noon. Cheverells Garden Club meeting, Talk on Bats by Gareth Harris. Meet GCVH 7pm.
Wed 9th:	Play reading of Make Way for Lucia! in aid of The Plain Players, Churchill Arms WL (Function Room), 6.30 for 7pm, entry £5.
Sat 12th:	Devizes Heritage Open Day. Further info from trustfordevizes.info Macmillan Coffee Morning, MLCH, 10am - 2pm Spring Bulb Sale in aid of St Peter's Church, GC, Pavilion GC, 9.30am - 12.30pm Twilight Cinema Jurassic Park, Hillworth Park, Devizes. Gates open 7pm, film starts 8.30pm. Tickets from www.ticketsource.com/hillworth-park-events
Sun 13th:	Paws Charity Dog Show in aid of the Bobby Van Trust, Rainscombe Park, Oare SN8 4HZ, 10am - 4.30pm. Tickets £8 in advance, or £10 on the day. wiltshirebobbyvantrust.org.uk/future-events The Proms in Hillworth Park, Devizes Town Band. From 2pm. Edington Ensemble Concert, MLCH, 4pm. Tickets £20 including glass of wine, U-18s free. Contact Daphne Moody on 07701 078606, or daphne.moody@btinternet.com
Mon 14th:	Mothers Union meeting, 2.15pm, 54 High Street, WL
Wed 16th:	Lavington Gardening Club talk 'Growing in Peat Free Compost', WLVH, 7.15 for 7.30pm start.
Thurs 17th:	People's Emergency Briefing Screening, All Saints Church, WL, 6.30pm.
Sat 19th:	Edington Arts Choral Workshop, Edington Priory Church, 10am - 4pm. Tickets £25 adults, £10 students under 18, includes music and refreshments.

Sat 19th:	Live Swing Jazz Night in aid of The Nestling Trust, MLCH, 7.30pm. Tickets £12.
	Devizes Chamber Choir Come and Sing Faure Requiem, St Andrews Church, Devizes. From 12 noon. Tickets £15, instrumentalists free.
Sat 19th - Sun 27th:	Devizes Food and Drink Festival
Mon 21st:	Great Cheverell Rural Housing Needs Survey opens.
Wed 23rd:	West Lavington Friendship Club trip to Oakham Treasures Museum, leaving WL at 9.30am, arrival home 4.30pm. £12.50. For more details or to book a seat phone Eileen on 01380 813264
	Carers Together Wiltshire Carers Afternoon Tea, The Bear Hotel, Devizes 1-2.30pm
	Mercers Talk by Mark Foster, Memorial Hall, Dauntsey's School WL, 7.30pm
Thurs 24th:	West Lavington Village Hall AGM, WL VH 7pm for 7.30pm
Sat 26th:	Swing Beside the Seaside Charity Vintage Tea Dance, MLCH, 2 - 5pm, Tickets £10 incl drink and cake, or £16 incl picnic box lunch and drink. Call 07833 786482
	Devizes Confetti Battle, Market Place Devizes, from 8.15pm.
Tues 29th:	Great Cheverell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Drop In Session re GC Rural Housing Needs Survey, The Pavilion GC, 7pm.
Wed 30th:	Flower Arranging Workshop, St Peter's Church GC, 10am - 12.30. £5 donation.
OCTOBER	
Sat 3rd:	Wiltshire Buildings Record event: Wiltshire Towns and Their Buildings, 10 - 4.30pm Bromham Community Hub, Bromham SN15 2JB, Tickets £27, Seniors £26, Students £22, Members £20.50, call 01249 705508
	Fin and Mark live at The Bell Inn, Great Cheverell, from 8.30pm
Sun 4th:	Bratton Silver Band accompany Wallace and Gromit's A Grand Day Out live, Corn Exchange, 11am and 2pm. Tickets: Adult £16, 17 and under £8, £40 family.
Wed 7th:	North Wilts Arts Society lecture: how advertising exploits fine art. Assembly Hall, Melksham, 11am, guests £8
	Mercers Talk by Sophie Hackford, Memorial Hall, Dauntsey's School, 7.30pm.
Sat 10th:	Songs from the Stage, Easterton Village Hall, doors open 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm. Profits to Easterton Village Hall Flush Fund. Tickets £12 from www.eastertonvh.org
Mon 12th:	Little Cheverell Parish Council meeting, LCVH, 7pm
Sat 16th & Sun 17th:	Devizes Musical Theatre 60th Anniversary Concert, Lavington School.
Sat 24th:	Pop up Pub, LCVH, from 6pm.

REGULAR MEETINGS OF VILLAGE GROUPS

Art Group: Thursday mornings, Giles Room, WL Village Hall, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Cafe Scientifique: *usually* first Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, The Raven , Poulshot

Cheverells Garden Club: second Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, GC Village Hall

Easterton Sewing Bee: Wednesday evenings, 7pm in Easterton Village Hall

Friendly Fridays, Old School, Market Lavington 10am to 1pm, all ages

Gt Cheverell Book Club: last Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Gt Cheverell Friends and Neighbours: first Wednesday in the month, GC Village Hall 3pm.

Home Group: Tuesdays in term time, 46 High Street, West Lavington, 6.30 - 8pm

Kennet Quilters: second Monday in month, ML Community Hall, 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Knitting Club: Baptist Church hall on third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm.

Lavington Community Choir: Thursdays, ML Community Hall, 8pm for 8.15pm.

Lavington and District Swimming Club: Sundays 3.30 to 5.30pm, Tuesdays 7.15-8.45pm, from 6th September to 8th December. Morning Swimming (from Thursday 3rd September): Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30am-7.30am. Dauntsey's School Pool.

Contact Lavingtonswim@gmail.com.

Lavington and District Garden Club: third Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, WL Village Hall, £2 per meeting, £15 per year

Market Lavington Toddlers' Group: Drop in, from birth to 5 yrs. Tuesdays in term time, 09.30 - 11.30am, The Old School, Market Lavington. Contact **Maxine on 07967 635147**

Market Lavington Short Mat Bowls Club: Mondays 10am & Wednesdays 7pm, Market Lavington Community Hall

Mothers' Union: second Monday of the Month, 2.15pm at 54 High Street, West Lavington, unless otherwise advised. May meeting at 2 Hooks Court, WL

Rhyme Time: for babies through to pre-schoolers, 1st and 3rd Fridays of month, including holidays. 10.15 - 10.45am, Market Lavington Library. September 4th & 18th

Tuesday Club: for 60+, Tuesdays, ML Community Hall 10am - 2pm

West Lavington Friendship Club: second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Baptist Church Hall at 2.30pm, unless otherwise advertised.

West Lavington WI: second Thursday of the month, Giles Room WL VH, April-October 7pm

West Lavington Youth Club: Mondays 6-8pm (9+ year group), Tuesdays 6-8pm (7-8 year group), Wednesdays 6 -8pm (4-6 year group) WL Village Hall

Whist Drive: Every Friday, Great Cheverell Village Hall 1.30pm



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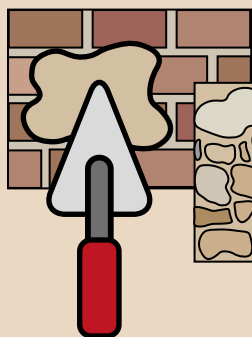
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